(c) the estimated cost for purchase and maintenance of these aircrafts?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The Government is planning to procure new aircraft for meeting the travel needs of VVIPs and other dignitaries. The cost of the aircraft would be known only after finalisation of negotiations with the vendor.

Request for withdrawal of Controversial Notifications

2123. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any communication from the Chief Minister of Delhi requesting them to withdraw the two controversial notifications issued by the Central Government recently regarding the powers of the State Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOMEAFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Chief Minister of the National Capital Territory of Delhi had requested the Central Government that the instructions issued recently on the definition of the word "Government" in relation to the National Capital Territory of Delhi and the amendments made to the rules relating to the transaction of business rules be withdrawn. However, it was clarified to the Chief Minister, National Capital Territory of Delhi that the protests made over these instructions were not based on facts.

Curtailment of Powers of Delhi Government

2124. SHRI ABANI ROY:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has recently stripped the powers of the State Government of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons and justification thereof;

(c) whether protests have been made by various leaders of State Government of Delhi in this regard;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government on such protests; and

(e) the time by when the circular issued by the Union Government to curtail powers of State Government is likely to be withdrawn?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENIVIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The protests made, over the instructions recently issued on the definition of the word "Government" in relation to the National Capital Territory of Delhi and the amendments made to the rules relating to the transaction of business, were not based on facts. This position was suitably clarified to the Chief Minister, National Capital Territory of Delhi.

Prior Approval of Lt. Governor on Bills Tabled in Delhi Assembly

2125. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have in a recent communication directed the Delhi Government to seek approval of the Lieutenant Governor, Delhi in all administrative matters;

(b) whether it is also a fact that all Bills which would hence forth be tabled in the Delhi Assembly would require prior approval of the Lieutenant Governor;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the legal basis on which the decision has been taken to curtail the powers of a duly elected Government; and

(d) the reaction of the Delhi Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The protests made over the instructions recently issued on the definition of the word "Government" in relation to the National Capital Territory of Delhi and the amendments made to the rules relating to the